

**Indian Cultural centre
High Commission of India
Colombo
Report of activities - June 2017**

12th June Sitar Recital by Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo & her disciples

Renowned Sitarist of Sri Lanka and ICC teacher Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo and students of Indian Cultural Centre presented a Sitar recital at the Centre. The evening commenced with observing a minute silence for the demise of veteran flautist of Sri Lanka Late Mir. Anil Mihiripenne. The programme started with a vocal recital in which students presented a sargam and tarana. This was followed by solo performances by Dr. Nirmala Kumari and her disciple Uthpala Gajamanne. The evening concluded with a group performance by guru and her disciples. The evening was very well appreciated by the music enthusiasts gathered at the Centre.





14th June Bharatha Natyam Recital
by the Disciples of Guru Mahalakshmi Karthikeyan from India

The disciples of Guru Mahalakshmi Karthikeyan from India presented a brilliant Bharatha Natyam repertoire which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Their performance lasted for an hour and half and was very well received. The guests attended the recital. Around 75 guests attended the performance.

Guru. Smt. Mahalakshmi Karthikeyan is trained under the able guidance of Guru Dr. Uma Anand and Sri. Madurai R. Muralidharan. She founded LASYA Performing Arts Centre at Walajapet in 2009 in Vellore District, India for dance imparting training in Bharathanatyam dedicated to the promotion of art and culture through performance, teaching, experimentation and preservation of classical traditional ideals.





17th June 3rd International Day of Yoga

3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in a grand way on 17th June 2017 at Independence Square ,Colombo.

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena joined thousands of yoga enthusiasts at Independence Square in Colombo on June 17 to celebrate the International Day of Yoga 2017. He performed a number of yoga asanas and encouraged yoga institutions in Sri Lanka to continue their good work. The event was attended by a number of Sri Lankan Ministers and officials, apart from public at large, including professionals, doctors, academicians and cultural personalities, cutting across all religions and ethnicities. Messages from Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj were telecast.

Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu highlighted the efforts led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the United Nations declaring June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, and the world now recognizes yoga, as a human treasure - a key to good health. High Commissioner underlined the interest of H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena in health issues and admired his support to promote yoga, as a powerful tool for both, preventive and curative healthcare.

The event was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with eminent yoga institutions of Sri Lanka such as Astanka Yoga Mandir, Institute of Human Excellence, Sethsada Yoga Institute, Dhamma Yoga Academy, Hatha Yoga Centre, Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre, Aum Kriyababaji Yoga Aranyam, My Yoga Lounge, Sudasuna Yoga Yathanya, Shakthi Ananda Yoga School and Saddharshi Yoga.

This event was preceded by weeks of yoga activities across Sri Lanka, including the first ever Yoga Road Show, a unique event that saw dozens of yoga instructors travel by bus to various locations across Sri Lanka including Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Kataragama, Galle, Jaffna and Colombo to promote, popularize and teach yoga. The journey connected thousands of minds, spreading the message of yoga for well-being.









World Music Day Celebrations

Indian Cultural Centre celebrated World Music Day with a series of musical programmes with visiting artistes from India.

21st June

Folk and Semi classical vocal recital

Ms. Sarita Saaz, an eminent vocalist from the famous Bhikari Thakur legacy presented a melodious evening of folk & semi classical songs, appreciated by a full house of music lovers. Around 100 guests attended the recital

Ms Sarita Saaz, a well known classical Vocalist from India, hold a Sangeet Prabhakar degree from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad, is trained by Maya Mishra and belongs to Beetiah Ghatrana. She learned folk songs from 100 years old BHIKHARI THAKUR REPOTARY, mastered in songs like poorvi, kajari, nirgun and currently working to promote Bhikhari Thakur legacy as a permanent member of BHIKHARI THAKUR REPOTARY.

She has performed in several national and international programs such as Faiz Ahmad Faiz poetry, Kabir songs, Adam Gondvi songs and Bhikhari Thakur songs in Karachi and Lahore, Pakistan, Folk songs in the different programmes of Sangeet Natak Academy, Delhi, NATAYA SMAGAM in Tripura, folk songs and Gazals in SANJHI VIRASAT, Allahabad, Thumri, Dadra and folk songs in different musical and theatre festivals in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Rang Mahotsav, Delhi University, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, and many more.



23rd June

Violin recital by Dr. Swarna Khuntia

Dr. Swarna Khuntia renowned violinist from Benaras Hindu University of India presented a violin recital at the Centre for the music aficionados. The programme commenced with a vocal and flute recital by Shubha Kanth. Around 75 guests attended the event.

Dr. Swarna Khuntia got her initial training in Violin from guru Sri. Prafulla Kumar Ray and advanced training under from the world Famous Violinist Padmabhushan Dr. N. Rajam. Dr Khuntia served as a Lecturer in violin at Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh, Chhattishgarh five years and presently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Instrumental Music at Banaras Hindu University. She has performed in several International programmes such as at Atul Smirti Gurukul, Pashupatinath, Kathmandu, Nepal, solo Violin concert and conducted violin workshop at Sangitshri School of Music, Phoenix, Arizona, USA and World Music Festival "TÈME FESTIVAL VIOLONS CHANTS DU MONDE" at Calais, France.





30th June

Sitar & Tabla Recital

Renowned Sitarist Pt. Birendra Nath Misra and his son Abhishek Misra from Benaras Hindu University of India presented a Sitar & Tabla Recital at the Centre. The programme was very well attended and appreciated by the music enthusiasts of the city.

Dr. Birendra Nath Mishra, a well-known artist in the field of Sitar, belongs to the great musician family of 'Benaras Gharana' of Pt. Dargahi Mishra, Pt. Bikku Maharaj fame. He got his training under the guidance of his father Pt. Surendra Mohan Mishra. He is one of the versatile Sitar players who can play both the "Tantrakari" and "Gayaki Ang" on Sitar.

Eminent percussionist Abhishek Misrae is one of the leading upcoming table players from the great Benaras Gharana. He has performed tabla solos with most of the great artists. He performed in various music festivals national and International levels such as Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan, Saptak Festival, Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh, Ganga Mahotsav, Bhatkhande Sangeet Samaroh, Cite de -la Musique Paris Norway Opera, Spirit of Unity concert Austria and Stern Studio Golden Jubilee Ceremony Switzerland.



